



RUSHMOOR STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

**Notes of meeting held on Wednesday, 30th September 2009
British Gurkha Society, Wren Way, Farnborough at 4.00 pm.**

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS REPRESENTED:

Aldershot Garrison Colonel Col Tim Forster, Garrison Colonel

Basingstoke Canal Authority Mr Ian Brown, Director

Enterprise First Mr John Mitchell (Vice-Chairman), Chief Executive

First Wessex Housing Association Mrs Sue Daniels

Government Office for the South East Mrs Cathy Evans

Guildford Diocese Canon David Tonkinson, Partnership Development Officer

Hampshire County Council

County Councillor Roger Kimber, Mrs Joy Smith, HAT Co-ordinator

Hampshire Constabulary

Chief Superintendent Mark Chatterton, Chief Inspector Duncan Weston

NHS Hampshire Mrs Jill Corbett, Mr Andy Whitfield

Rushmoor Borough Council

Councillor Peter Moyle (Chairman) Leader, Mr Andrew Lloyd, Chief Executive

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS ABSENT:

Aspire Defence Services Ltd Mr Neil Johnston, Garrison Facilities Director

Farnborough College of Technology Mrs Christine Davis, Principal

North Hampshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mr. John Harrocks
Chief Executive, Valorie Cloke

Princes Mead Shopping Centre Mr David Pickett, Centre Director

Parity for Disability Ms Alison Cooper

Rushmoor Citizens' Advice Bureaux Ms Alex Hughes, District Manager

Rushmoor Healthy Living Mr Tony Docker, Chief Executive

Rushmoor Voluntary Services Mr Greg Alexander, Chief Executive

IN ATTENDANCE:

Hampshire Constabulary

PC Mark Ranola; PC Scott Beney; A/Insp Jon Turton; PCSO James Charlton; PCSO Jenny Lawrence

Rushmoor Borough Council

Mr. John Edwards, Director of Community and Environment,
Mr. Peter Amies, Head of Community
Mr. David Quirk, Head of Environmental Health
Mrs Karen Edwards, Head of Strategy and Communications
Mr. Jon Rundle, Assistant Head of Strategy and Communications
Mr. Matthew Melville, Senior Planning Officer
Miss Annie Denton, Partnership Officer
Miss Jill Shuttleworth, Committee Services Manager

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received on behalf of David Pickett and Duncan Coombes (Princes Mead Shopping Centre), Greg Alexander (Rushmoor Voluntary Services), John Harrocks, (Chamber of Commerce), Neil Johnston, (Aspire Defence), Tony Docker (Rushmoor Healthy Living), Valorie Cloke (North Hampshire Chamber of Commerce), Alex Hughes (Citizens Advice Bureaux) and Alison Cooper (Parity)

2. NOTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Partnership confirmed the notes of the meeting held on 8th July 2009.

3. TAKING THE NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL STRATEGY FORWARD

The Partnership welcomed Mrs Karen Edwards, Head of Strategy and Communications, Rushmoor Borough Council, who presented the proposals for taking forward Rushmoor's Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy for the three wards identified as a priority through the indices of multiple deprivation and highlighted in the Borough Portrait - Mayfield, North Town and Heron Wood. A schematic diagram of the Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Arrangements showing the proposed key stages was distributed.

It was proposed to develop and deliver Neighbourhood Action Plans, through a partnership approach, for each of the three wards. The first stage would be to map the work that was currently underway or planned to take place within each ward by the Council, key stakeholders and strategic partnerships. The second stage would be to identify the gaps and establish delivery teams and leads for each of the three area plans. This would be followed by the implementation and monitoring of agreed actions.

During discussion, it was emphasised that much of the work would focus on identifying existing activities and improving co-ordination and monitoring. The proposed new Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy Group, which would co-ordinate the Action Plans would be accountable to the Rushmoor Strategic Partnership and report on proposed new actions. The Partnership agreed that persons forming the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy Group should be empowered to act and supported by their organisation's management.

The Partnership endorsed the proposed arrangements for the Neighbourhood Renewal

Strategy.

4. MAYFIELD WALKABOUT

The Meeting split into four groups and participated in a tour of the Mayfield area organised through Chief Superintendent Mark Chatterton. To accompany the walk an information pack had been prepared, which contained a summary of the ward characteristics and photographs of the environment.

5. POST WALKABOUT DISCUSSION

Each Group was invited to give feedback on the main issues and challenges that they had identified during the tour, together with the positive impressions of the area. The detailed comments are attached to the minutes at Appendix 1.

The main positive impressions of the area were that it benefitted from large open spaces and parks with good play equipment, and residents appeared friendly with good relationships with local community police officers.

The key challenges related to the need to make greater provision for youth facilities, the need for greater community care around litter and graffiti and the upkeep and maintenance of fencing, lampposts and other communal areas.

During discussion, it was emphasised that community involvement was a key factor to achieving sustainable improvements within the neighbourhood, and that perhaps assisting involvement in projects such as the 'In Bloom' competition could help with this. In terms of environmental management, the Head of Environmental Health at Rushmoor Borough Council reported that some new posts had recently been created through the Future Jobs Fund and that there could be some resource to co-ordinate and ensure maintenance schedules in these priority areas. It was suggested that a joint fund should be set up.

6. IN BRIEF

(i) Senate Annual Conference Report

The official report was not yet available, but would be circulated to partners once published. Mr Andrew Lloyd reported that the event was well attended and had a good mix of presentations and workshops.

Action:

- Annie Denton to circulate Senate Annual Conference Report when available.

(ii) Borough Portrait Update

Ms Annie Denton circulated the latest health profile information for Rushmoor, which was displayed as a summary comparison (2008 compared to 2009). It was reported that the Rushmoor data showed some improvement in the areas of drug misuse, deaths from smoking and early deaths from heart disease and stroke. The areas which seemed to be getting worse were physically active children, obese children, physically active adults, hospital stays related to alcohol, hip fracture in over-65s and early deaths from cancer. The Borough Portrait would be updated accordingly.

(iii) Rushmoor Plan Workshop

Mr Matthew Melville reported that with regard to the Rushmoor Core Strategy and the Farnborough Airport Area Action Plan, consultation on the 'preferred approach and options' documents had been scheduled for October of this year. However, the recent submission of a planning application by the operator of Farnborough Airport to increase the annual number of flight movements had caused a few challenges in respect of the timing of key decisions by the Council – both on the planning application and on the Rushmoor Plan.

Following consideration of these issues, the decision had been taken to delay the preferred approach consultation on the Core Strategy and the Area Action Plan until January 2010. It was hoped that this would lead to greater clarity for residents and other stakeholders by not confusing the planning application and development plan processes.

In this context, it would be more appropriate to hold the proposed workshop with the Rushmoor Strategic Partnership during the 'live' consultation on these documents. It was therefore suggested that the workshop be postponed to the February 2010 meeting of the Partnership.

(iv) Economic Recession Update

Mr. John Edwards reported that benefit claims had increased and that additional government funding had been used to recruit two extra temporary staff. New applications were being dealt with within 3-5 days, and performance was in the top 10% of the country. He also reported an increase in residents seeking advice to avoid homelessness, however, the housing waiting lists remained stable at about 2,600. There had been virtually no take up of the Government's Mortgage Rescue Scheme, due to it being overly bureaucratic, but measures were being taken to simplify this.

The numbers of persons in Rushmoor receiving jobseekers allowance (1,900) had levelled out. Two hotels had recently opened, and another was planned soon, which was employing local people. It was also reported that Enterprise First was opening a smarter working centre in Aldershot.

7. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS –

Rushmoor Strategic Partnership – 4.00 p.m. Committee Room 1, Rushmoor Borough Council Offices, Farnborough Road, Farnborough:

Thursday, 10th December 2009

Wednesday, 10th February 2010

Wednesday, 21st April 2010

The meeting closed at 6.00 p.m.

APPENDIX A

Mayfield Walkabout Feedback

Group A – Mark Ranola

Mark Chatterton, Hampshire Constabulary
Roger Kimber, Hampshire County Council
Joy Smith, Hampshire County Council
Karen Edwards, Rushmoor Borough Council
John Mitchell, Enterprise First
Sue Daniels, First Wessex Housing Association

Group B – Jon Turton

Matthew Melville, Rushmoor Borough Council
Ian Brown, Basingstoke Canal Authority
Jill Corbett, NHS Hampshire
Andrew Lloyd, Rushmoor Borough Council
Jon Rundle, Rushmoor Borough Council

Group C – Jenny Lawrence

Andy Whitfield, NHS Hampshire
John Edwards, Rushmoor Borough Council
Duncan Weston, Hampshire Constabulary
Annie Denton, Rushmoor Borough Council
David Tonkinson, Guildford Diocese
Peter Amies, Rushmoor Borough Council

Group D – James Charlton

Tim Forster, Aldershot Garrison
Cathy Evans, Government Office of the South East
Peter Moyle, Rushmoor Borough Council
David Quirk, Rushmoor Borough Council
Jill Shuttleworth, Rushmoor Borough Council

Good Impressions

- Overall, the general appearance on the surface looked ok. There weren't many of the signs of deprivation, (eg. broken out windows, broken down cars, gangs of people loitering on street corners, etc.) and the litter/graffiti wasn't widespread but in very localised areas.
- It was impressive to see the number of residents who know our beat officer and engaged with him in a friendly way. I also admired the way a minor situation was dealt with involving a group of young people, which resulted in the confiscation of alcohol. He was also knowledgeable about individual residents. This type of police presence is essential and I think we need to take full advantage of this asset in moving forward.
- Very nice medical centre
- Accessible SureStart Centre
- The diversity of the area should also be seen as an asset, though I realise cohesion is one of the major challenges.
- Lots of green - grassed areas and trees.
- Green spaces and good play areas seen.
- Proud of their environment and able to identify areas for improvement.
- General environment was much better than expected.
- Friendly
- Keep old basketball court
- Community Champion rated it 8 out of 10
- Adults and children using the space and out and about.

Challenges/Barriers

- Playing fields litter
- Large playing field, in poor condition, and clearly not being used to its full potential
- There are plenty of areas that need tidying up
- Litter in hedges, particularly around Oak Farm field
- Litter from top Totland flats being dumped in ground floor gardens rather than take to bin room

- Pigeon mess
- Dead weeds in alleys/weed control
- One very broken street light in passage way - Who owns the leaning lamppost?
- Disabled bays not clearly marked
- No teenage club
- Cohesion issues
- Density of population
- Community apathy amongst some residents
- High level of neglect on much of the housing
- Some of the walkways felt a bit enclosed, contained blind corners, with poor lighting so probably not so appealing at night.
- Pavilion, HCC, RBC – who owns what?
- Oak Farm playing field – is the answer for the Police to control?
- Constant background noise from nearby motorway.
- Some poorly maintained blocks. Gated and locked areas – present a prison like feel

Real Surprises

- Quiet
- Resident comment - Closure of Oak Farm School good – no kids loitering at lunchtime and after school
- Community champion was reported by neighbours and reprimanded by housing authority for planting flowers
- No ownership over lamppost and rubble in alley by Cherrywood School
- Very few rubbish bins
- Planting in one court
- Children clearly have a sense of pride in there place
- Neighbourhood police – well known and respected

Key Priority

- Engaging the community in the solutions
- Improved, well-coordinated maintenance, using creative means to involve community and generate self-funding projects.
- Key priority and a good way to get publicity and buy in is a Litter pick. But we need to provide skips and get permanent bins in place too? Did not see many of them on my walk!!
- Playing Field

Quick Win Suggestions

- Litter – Probationary Service/Pay Back
- Clear the rubbish
- Community cleanup/planting initiative (give support (tools, waste bags, free plants/soil, paint, etc) to existing community groups to organise) accompanied by, "keep your neighbourhood clean" campaign (again, supporting comm. groups to implement). (A hanging basket/garden competition (supplies provided) or a street beautification accreditation scheme)
- General clean up to areas identified
- A collective budget to sort things out
- Joint funding pot to ensure actions carried out rather than passed from one organisation to another.
- Maintain grounds
- Return to work/future jobs fund
- Very clearly mark disabled bays
- More bins (including doggie bins), accompanied by regular maintenance schedule
- Fresh paint wherever possible, esp. railing and roof panels at Totland flats and faded/graffitied garage doors
- Improve lighting (trim trees, remove obstructions, clean/paint)
- Conduct tree/hedge/grass blitz followed by regular hedge maintenance schedule (community pay-back?)
- Turn "The Triangle" (other places?) into allotment
- Mobilise all neighbourhood service providers (statutory, voluntary, business) into the renewal process
- Was mentioned that the name Totland conjured up a very poor impression, which sometimes affected peoples behaviour? What about a change of name/brand?
- Is there somewhere for kids to go in the evening?
- Playing field boundary – thin the trees six foot from the ground up and clear the rubbish. You could then see what is going on and make it safe for everyone

- Start a Mayfield in bloom for front gardens. Give everyone a certificate who tries, moving on to some sort of award for best Close and front garden with the ward councillors doing the judging
- Community Champion suggested a wall for graffiti
- Community engagement

Other Comments

- I thought that it was very powerful for the RSP to come out of the Council offices and meet elsewhere. Well done to the team for organising a successful event.
- I think that the walkabout was impactful and helps to give people a reality check on what we talk about around tables and watching powerpoints.
- I think that all of the remedial type work is very doable and needs focus and delivery.
- The people within the estate are very nice in the main and I think would respond to our combined effort providing they are meant and for the long term.
- There is some more strategic work that we need to do but we need to focus on structure - finding a project manager and focusing in on the issues of poverty/training/ dv and education and aspiration.
- A very good event and a starter for ten.....